

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04624 231054Z

17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 CU-05 SY-04 USSS-00 FBO-08 OPR-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 A-01 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 110953

P R 231012Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8018

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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PASS EA/IMS, CU/CP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MY

SUBJ: STUDENTS "CLOSE" UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA FOR TWO DAYS

1. SUMMARY: PARTICIPATION AND SUBSEQUENT ARREST IN STATE CAPITAL OF JOHORE BAHRU OF UNIV OF MALAY STUDENT UNION/SOCIALIST LEADERS SPARKED DEMONSTRATIONS SEP 21 AND SUBSEQUENT TAKE-OVER OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BY STUDENT UNION (PMUM) SUPPORTERS. IN COUNTER COUP SEP 22, CONSERVATIVE MALAY STUDENTS TOOK OVER EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT OF CAMPUS AND RETURNED IT TO UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION. CAMPUS REMAINED PEACEFUL BUT APPARENTLY TENSE MONDAY, SEP 23, WITH SOME STUDENTS BOYCOTTING CLASSES, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF "OVERTHROW" OF LEGALLY ELECTED PMUM. IN MID-AFTERNOON, EMBASSY INFORMED OF CANCELLATION OF MONDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE AT UNIVERSITY THEATER OF MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE TROUP. REASON GIVEN BY UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS WAS POSSIBILITY OF RACIAL CLASHES ON CAMPUS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 KUALA 04624 231054Z

2. ARREST IN PAST WEEK OF ISHAMUDDIN RAIS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNIV OF MALAYA STUDENT UNION (PMUM) AND A LEADER OF THE UNIV SOCIALIST CLUB, THE NATIONAL SEC GEN OF PARTI SOSALIS RAKYAT SYED ABDUL HAMID ALI AND SEVERAL OTHERS FOR PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF ILLEGAL SQUATTERS IN TASEK UTARA, JOHORE, TRIGGERED DEMONSTRATIONS SEPT 21 AND 22 BY UM STUDENTS ON AND NEAR THEIR CAMPUS IN PETALING JAYA, A SUBURB OF KUALA LUMPUR. MAIN FORCE BEHIND THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS WAS THE UM SOCIALIST CLUB (KSUM) WHICH HAS CONTROLLED PMUM FOR PAST TWO YEARS.

3. ON SATURDAY, SEP 21, POLICE CORDONED OFF THE UM CAMPUS AND PREVENTED GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 600 STUDENTS FROM TRAVELING TO KL TO DEMONSTRATE AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. IN REACTION, DEMONSTRATORS "TOOK OVER CAMPUS" SATURDAY AFTERNOON, CLOSING GATES TO OUTSIDERS. CAMPUS REMAINED CLOSED SUNDAY MORNING BUT LEADERS FROM MALAY LANGUAGE SOCIETY, NATIONAL UNION OF ISLAMIC STUDENTS, AND SEVERAL INFORMAL SILAT (MALAYSIAN TAEKWANDO) CLUBS APPARENTLY MOUNTED COUP, OVERTHROWING "TEMPORARY HIGHER EXECUTIVE" ESTABLISHED BY KSUM. THE CONSERVATIVE STUDENTS ACCUSED KSUM OF PREPARING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND PLANNING VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH AUTHORITIES. "NATIONAL HIGHER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL" SET UP BY COUPISTS THEN CLOSED THE STUDENT UNION OFFICES AND TURNED ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAMPUS BACK OVER TO ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR AHMAD IBRAHIM AND HIS ADMINISTRATORS.

4. ACCORDING TO MORNING PAPERS AND FIRST HAND REPORTS, UM CAMPUS WAS COMPLETELY CALM THIS MORNING (SEP 23), ALTHOUGH BOYCOTT OF SOME FACULTIES SEEMED TO BE IN EFFECT. HOWEVER, AT ABOUT THREE-THIRTY P.M. USIS WAS INFORMED BY MANAGER OF ON-CAMPUS DEWAN TENGKU CHANCELLOR, IN WHICH MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE TROUPE WAS TO PERFORM TONIGHT, THAT ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR FELT TENSIONS WERE SUFFICIENTLY HIGH FOR PERFORMANCE TO BE CANCELLED. TENSIONS ALLEGEDLY RESULT OF POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN NON-MALAY STUDENTS OF SCIENCE FACULTY WHO HAVE BEEN IN UP-ROAR PAST TWO WEEKS OVER DECISION TO REQUIRE FRESHMEN SCIENCE STUDENTS TO PASS MALAYSIAN LANGUAGE COURSE BEFORE ADVANCEMENT TO SECOND YEAR AND MALAY LANGUAGE SOCIETY. A PRESS SOURCE HAS SUGGESTED, ON OTHER HAND, THAT AUTHORITIES FEAR SOCIALIST CLUB MEMBERS WOULD ELUDE POLICE, INFILTRATE CROWD OF 1,000 EXPECTED TO ATTEND GRAHAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUALA 04624 231054Z

PERFORMANCE, AND EMBARRASS GOVT BY USING DANCE EXHIBITION AS VENUE FOR FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS. THIS SOURCE DOES NOT EXPECT SITUATION TO CALM DOWN FOR AT LEAST A WEEK.

5. COMMENT: SITUATION IS STILL VERY MURKY. GOVT HAS FROM BEGINNING TAKEN FIRM LINE IN OPPOSITION TO DEMONSTRATIONS AND INSISTS THAT THOSE ARRESTED IN JOHORE WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL THIS COMING THURSDAY. WHETHER GRAHAM PERFORMANCE SCHEDULED

FOR TOMORROW WILL GO ON IS STILL VERY MUCH UP IN THE AIR.  
UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, ARRESTS, UNIVERSITIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, STUDENT GROUPS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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